

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are currently pending. Claims 22-24 have been allowed, and claims 3, 5-11, 13-15 and 17-19 have been objected to, but have otherwise been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 5, 6, 13, 14, and 17 have been rewritten in independent form and claim 15 has been amended to depend on claim 14. In light of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims.

Independent claims 1 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Giuhat patent (USP 5,881,145). This rejection is traversed.

The Giuhat patent describes a "Signalling Mediation Server" [sic] as follows:

Access to the TELCO network is *controlled or mediated* by a Signalling Mediation Server 68. In Advanced Intelligent Networks, the Signalling Mediation Server, which is also known as a Signalling Mediation Point (SMP), comprises, in essence, a Signal Transfer Point provided with Mediated Access software. The SMP controls access to a telephone company's network by third parties via a *tandem or terminating node* or end office controlled by the SMP. col. 5, lns. 41-48. (emphasis added).

Also, the Giuhat patent describes how the signaling mediation server is "set up for *intercepting* calls to ported directory numbers." claim 1 (emphasis added)

In contrast, claim 1 describes "a non-terminating intelligent communications platform (ICP) connected between two signaling end points (SEPs) to intercept signaling system 7 (SS7) messages between the two SEPs." Also, claim 12 describes "connecting an intelligent communications platform (ICP) between two signaling end points (SEPs) to transparently intercept signaling system 7 (SS7) messages between the two SEPs." Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 12 distinguish over the prior art, and are thus in condition for allowance. An example of a "non-terminating" ICP is described in paragraphs [0021], [0025], [0030], and [0031] of the patent specification.

Furthermore, the dependent claims further limit their respective independent claims, and are also deemed to be in condition for allowance. It is noted that there appears to be no current examination of claims 25 and 26, but since these depend on claim 1, and for reasons stated above, these claims are also deemed to be in condition for allowance.

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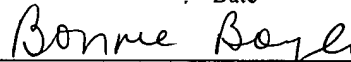
David M. O'Dell
Registration No. 42,044

Dated: December 22, 2005
HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP
901 Main Street, Suite 3100
Dallas, Texas 75202-3789
Telephone: 972/739-8635
Facsimile: 972/692-9118
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Bonnie Royce